

REMARKS

Claims in the Application. Claim 1 has now been amended. Claim 40 has now been cancelled from this application. Claims 16-17, 24 and 56 were previously cancelled from this application. Accordingly, Claims 1-15, 18-23, 25-39, 41-55 and 57 are active in this application.

Amendment to the Claims. Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter, as set forth in the last paragraph of page 8 of the Office Action. Applicants have now amended Claim 1 as suggested by the Examiner.

Examiner's Rejection of the Claims. The Examiner has rejected the claims as follows:

- (i.) Claims 1-5, 8, 10, 11, 13-15, 27, 52 and 53 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 4,465,598 ("Darlington") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,302,297 ("Barthroe");
- (ii.) Claim 6 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over *Darlington* in view of *Barthroe* and further in view of U. S. Patent No. 5,783,527 ("Dubson");
- (iii.) Claim 7 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over *Darlington* in view of *Barthroe* and *Dubson* and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,989,353 ("Skee");
- (iv.) Claims 9, 12, 20-23, 27, 31-33 and 46 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over *Darlington* in view of *Barthroe* and further in view of *Skee*;
- (v.) Claims 15, 18, 19 and 39 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over *Darlington* in view of *Barthroe* and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,821,215 ("Crudden");
- (vi.) Claim 55 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over *Darlington* in view of *Barthroe* and *Crudden* and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,507,208 ("Simon");
- (vii.) Claim 46 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over *Darlington* in view of *Barthroe* and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,335,398 ("Amiya");

- (viii.) Claim 29 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over *Darlington* in view of *Barthroe* and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,908,080 ("*Amana*");
- (ix.) Claim 30 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over *Darlington* in view of *Barthroe* and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,559,216 ("*Nagai*");
- (x.) Claims 31, 32, 34-37, 41 and 43-45 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over *Darlington* in view of *Barthroe* and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,139,973 ("*Kawasaki*");
- (xi.) Claims 37 and 38 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over *Darlington* in view of *Barthroe* and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,758,967 ("*Anderson*");
- (xii.) Claims 48 and 49 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over *Darlington* in view of *Barthroe* and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,211,859 ("*Horton*");
- (xiii.) Claims 50 and 51 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over *Darlington* in view of *Barthroe* and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,317,882 ("*Horiguchi*"); and
- (xiv.) Claims 54 and 57 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Darlington* in view of *Barthroe* and further in view of *Simon*.

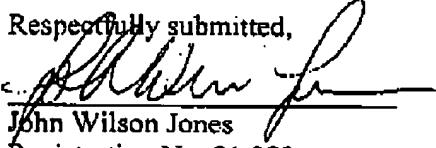
It is believed that the need for discussion of these rejections is obviated by the amendment of Claim 1 in accordance with the Examiner's suggestion.

Examiner's Rejection Under the Judiciary Created Doctrine of Obviousness-type Double Patenting. The Examiner has further rejected Claims 1-5, 8, 15, 18, 19, 39, 40 and 52-55 and 57 under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over Claims 1-27 of co-pending application No. 11/145,281. A Terminal Disclaimer has already been filed in co-pending application No. 11/145,281 in response to a similar rejection.

The Examiner's Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 112. The Examiner has further rejected Claim 40 under the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. § 112. The cancellation of Claim 40 obviates the need for further discussion of this rejection.

Conclusions. The Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned should he deem it prudent to expedite the prosecution to this application. In view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, it is submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Early notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

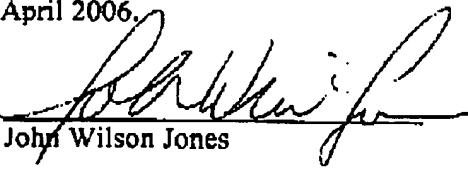

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CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION, 37 C.F.R. § 1.6(d)

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted by facsimile, 571 273-8300, to Examiner Peter A. Hruskoci c/o Commissioner for Patents, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 on this the 13th day of April 2006.


John Wilson Jones